Letter No 89. Sunday 28th Dec.

Major F. H. Massy
6. Palestinian Coy. the Buffs
[illegible]

My own darling heart -

I arrived back from my Xmas visit to the Hopkins in Haifa at 7.30 this evening, & have been busy ever since, as many things had to happen during my absence, nothing at all having happened for 3½ months. And I also found a large bunch of letters & cards waiting for me, including marvellously your letter no 67 from Oct 26th & AGs of 7th & 8th Nov, & the letter giving me the copy of Hughes' certificate. It is now 11.30 p.m. & I cannot write much longer, but I wanted to make a beginning. I have so much to tell you about the "most important topic" & about my Xmas, & have still to answer properly your 3 delayed letters which arrived last week. And to tell you again how much I adore & love you & long for you with all my heart.

The Xmas parcel was lovely, my darling, & thank you very much indeed. All the contents are very useful & just what I want & need. I am so pleased to have Tolstoy's book. I took the parcel with me to Haifa & opened it on Xmas morning. Your letter was sweet & made me so happy, as said. I wore a pair of the socks straightaway, & put Vaseline hair tonic on my hair & powdered myself in all the "places" after my bath, & [illegible] the [illegible] & pulled the crackers with the Hopkins child.

It was a lovely parcel & I'm so pleased you made me wait to open it until Dec 25th. I am furious with myself now for not sending such a parcel to you

Monday 29th Dec. I really must buy another pad, as this stuff is too thin to be legible on both sides. It is annoying because this pad cost 3/6 & I had only three days. I had better tell you about the important people of all as that is the most important thing I should tell you. I have not yet had any letters today to say so. It is dreadfully sad disappointing, but you can only face it & I suppose you will be getting mine soon. I have had no letter at all, so I suppose there is still a few days to go & one of us will have to wait. Even the Army could not be so unkind as to keep me here for the whole 90 days. But I do think they might have the courtesy & common decency to tell me if only to say that I can't have it & be done with it. I am getting fed up with applying for a Commander's Card & still not getting it. If I had not left my car with a very few valuables in I should certainly have sold it & all of my possessions. But I shall not give up. I shall write a personal letter to Col Lodwick & ask his advice perhaps he will be able to help me. I go straight over to see them about it. Many thanks for your letter. I have been to the Theatre twice & enjoyed it very much indeed. In any case I shall apply again at the first opportunity & will be able to send you a letter as well. Must end. Love. Send it as fast possible that Col L may be able to give helpful advice. Love to you all

Quest - & v. cheap. I went up to Haifa Wednesday afternoon, Xmas Eve, by bus; 60 miles for 2/6. Everything, & Jock Hopkins in particular, was in a big flap when I arrived, as a 10,000 ton oil tanker had just blown up in the harbour & sank, & was burning furiously. The Captain was in hospital, & poor Jock was more or less in charge. It had probably been caused by a delayed action mine from months ago - otherwise luck. Fortunately, [illegible] the loss of life was very small, & the fire was soon under control, but burned for over 24 hours. Apart from this letter, I stayed until Sunday. It was frightfully kind & good of them to have me for so long, & I did not outstay my welcome, because when I left they made me promise not to be so long in coming to see them again next time. We really did nothing all the time, except eat turkey, drink champagne & stuffing, read, talk, sleep & go to bed, & I enjoyed it very much. Jock had the work of one day, & they are a bit handicapped in the evenings by only having a young Arab girl to look after the child. But I did not mind one bit not going out, & in fact I rather preferred it. We had a lucky escape on Xmas day. The Captain being in hospital, his wife, [illegible], the Admiral's daughter, & about whom I have told you before, was pretty well asked over the Hopkins for dinner. But at the last moment, the Captain was let out of hospital, & so she did not come — except to call in in the morning. She really is bloody

awful – an absolute dragon & never stops talking for a moment. I hear she is of the opinion & school of thought, that the German nation should be eliminated after the war. An intelligent doctrine is very much the sort of unhelpful nonsense you would expect from such a woman. Much as I loathe & detest the Germans I think she & her [illegible] are much more likely to be the ones to be wiped out. Commander [illegible] Robertson called in several times & was in good form. He is now passing through another completely harmless affair with an English girl of about 20. His son, who flies a bomber, is now in the M.E. & has got a bar to his D.F.C. Uncle, who is of medium & stocky build & has a lovely [illegible] face, & weather beaten face – has been to a fancy dress dance this week. [illegible] – dressed as a Turkish girl from a Kibbutz, & they shirt, bright blue bloomers, & a strange coloured [illegible] & a most typical [illegible]. I was told she was a sensation, but that the [illegible] was rather [illegible] amused.

The enclosed snaps taken early last summer show you what she looks like. Sheila was 2 & was such a very sweet child & I like her. But Lisa was so much sweeter at that age & had altogether more character & was the most perfect & so much more of a little person by herself.

sent me darling. I laughed madly. Two of them are quite good — [illegible] is not [illegible] the cheap camera & being badly over exposed. The other one, I must admit, is pretty dotty. But it does not matter sweetest, I know that you are gorgeous & pretty & lovely. Dotty snaps only appear because you have a much more expressive face than other people & cannot always be caught in a position of serene beauty.

I think, darling, that you & Max must have a really good photograph taken together. Not a 5/6 one at Madame Yvonne, but one costing several guineas. Will you please do this for me darling — I do want you to. I am so sorry that we had that cheap one taken — they are so flat, and if I look at it from above or below it comes out of focus & your mouth looks quite wrong — it does not show your eyes at all. For me please do it, darling.

I have so much more to tell you & to answer that I must post this now as in the morning my last one went off last Tuesday. But I shall carry on tomorrow — at greater leisure. On New Years Eve we are having goose & plum pudding in the Mess. Please give a big kiss to Max from his daddy. All my dearest love & kisses to you my sweetest heart xx [illegible] xx

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
89
POSTAGE REVENUE
Mrs. H. Massey.
Norton House.
Park Lane.
Beaconsfield.
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